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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany/USSR

REPORT

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Central Weapons Workshop of the East German People's Police of the Potsdam area, with some of the top personnel. Discusses types of weapons repaired there. Strength of the People's Police in Potsdam. Soviet restricted area opposite this weapons workshop - tank unit there equipped with sixty T/54s or JS/3s plus forty of a new type tank with two parallel cannon.¹

2. Soviet vehicles at Werder airfield. Various Soviet soldiers with black shoulderboards and artillery insignia, others with red shoulderboards and dragonfly (Libellen) insignia.

3. Various Soviet [redacted] units taken from a document in a Reichsbahn office in Gross Kreutz (near Werder).

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4. Small Soviet restricted area NNE of Rossleben, apparently the usual restricted area for use of motorized troops.

1. [redacted] Comment: Probably the ZSU/57/2, a modified T-54 with two 57 mm. AA cannon.

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The Central

Weapons Workshop is subordinate to the Section TD Technischer Dienst (Technical Service) - the chief is Major Weidlich⁷. The Chief of the Central Weapons Workshop is Peoples Police Captain Manzel. His deputy is Peoples Police Lieutenant Fehnel (who is at the same time SED - Secretary of the workshop). There are 25 persons employed in the Central Weapons Workshop, all are members of the Peoples Police. Weapons of the Peoples Police, the Customs, and battle groups of the Potsdam and Cottbus areas were repaired there.

The weapons included machine guns, machine pistols, carbines, and pistols as well as cannons of the Standby Police (Bereitschaftspolizei)⁷ All the weapons which are repaired are old weapons of international origin, the only new ones being the Soviet Makarov pistols which are of unusual accuracy and are 12 mm in caliber and hold nine rounds. Seventy-five percent of all weapons are in very bad condition and practically useless. Parts are practically nonexistent. By 1962 the NVA, the VP, the Border Guards, and the Customs are supposed to receive new standard weapons from the Soviet Union. Old weapons will be turned over to unit combat groups after being repaired. The single weapons plant in the Soviet Zone of Occupation DDR located in Suhl is presently engaged in the manufacture of the Soviet MP 41 under license but is supposed to manufacture only replacement parts for old weapons (sports and hunting) in the future because the present DDR production capability of replacement parts is completely insufficient.

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the following figures regarding the strength of the VP in Potsdam:

VP - District authority (Bezirksbehoerde) - 400 men.

VP - District office (Kreisamt) - 200 men as well as two battalions of standby

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police. Each battalion consisted of four companies of infantry of 120 50X1-HUM men each as well as a motorized company with three tanks, artillery, signal section, etc. (about 250 men).

[redacted] opposite the Central Weapons Workshop in Potsdam

Am Schragen there is a Soviet restricted area. A tank unit is stationed there.

[redacted] there are about 60 tanks of the T-54 and JS-3 type as well as 40 new types of tanks with two parallel cannons with a caliber of about 60 mm. [redacted] these tanks outside the park area because

these tanks did not leave the restricted area and did not take part in the usual tank exercises. [redacted] the tank resembles a turtle.

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The tank is about 220 mm high, about 15 meters long, and about 6 meters wide. [sic].

The upper band of the tank treads are covered by armor plating, only the lower half of the tread are open to view (side view). The cannons of which two-three jut out have^a noticeably large vertical aiming device [Zielwinkel].

[redacted] now as before a Soviet Border Guard battalion is stationed in Stahnsdorf.

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[redacted] a Soviet restricted area between Freyburg and Rossleben as per our instructions. [redacted]

[redacted] there was a small Soviet restricted area ~~NNE~~ of Rossleben in the forest area between Rossleben and Ziegelroda (about two square miles in size). The Rossleben-Ziegelroda ^{road} goes through this restricted area. About one kilometer from Rossleben there is a guarded turnpike and the same thing is true of the exit one kilometer farther on. Traffic is free to use the road during the day but ^{it} is off limits at night. [redacted]

[redacted] tracks of tracked vehicles on the road otherwise nothing. [redacted]

[redacted] found no warning or "forbidden" signs.

[redacted] the area is the usual restricted zone for motorized troops.

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[redacted] the Soviets often transport unknown objects with particularly long vehicles and/or with vehicles with a single axle. [redacted]

[redacted] Since between Freyburg to Rossleben there is a forty kilometer stretch of highway and both are stops and a rail line it cannot be assumed that the objects are taken from Freyburg via highway to the restricted area near Rossleben which would mean going through several villages.

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Since there are no Soviet troops in Freyburg as is also the case in the immediate surrounding area [redacted] (1) what kind of vehicles are involved? (2) Where do they travel to? (3) Something about the destination. [redacted]

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the restricted area between Rossleben and Ziegelroda in order to inspect it more closely (fencing, rail tracks, types of vehicles and number).

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various soldiers with black shoulderboards and artillery insignia as well as some soldiers with red shoulderboards and Libellen with four wings (two on each side).

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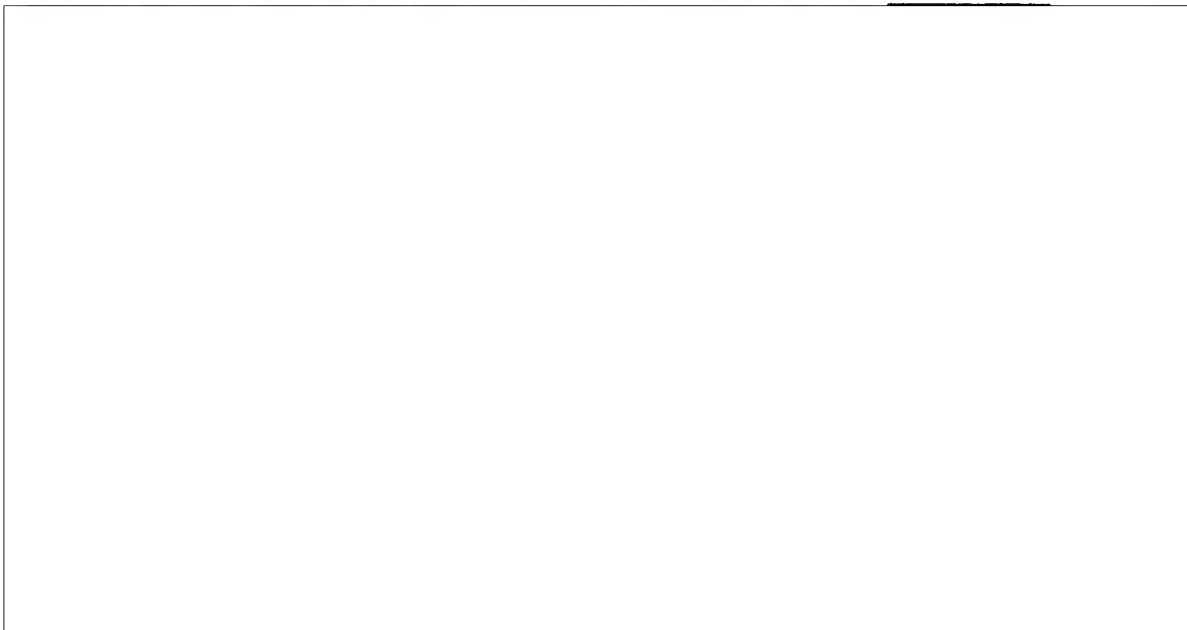
[redacted] the wooden bridge at Werder Airfield no longer exists. [redacted] The place where the bridge formerly stood has been leveled. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Gross

Kreutz in the office of the Personnel director of the Reichsbahn.



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